

Today, while we commemorate the progress that has been made, we must also recommit ourselves to the struggle and the fight for equal justice. We must remain vigilant in the struggle for voting rights, criminal justice reform, and economic equity.

Foot soldiers like Rosa Parks, Claudette Colvin, and Attorney Fred Gray, whose lifelong work in the fight for justice and equality still resonate with us today and reminds us that we cannot take for granted the battles endured by those before us; nor must we neglect our own responsibility to ensure liberty and justice.

As benefactors of the sacrifices of these brave men and women, we must be willing to answer the modern day call and to dare to be trailblazers on our own. Rosa Parks' quiet refusal to surrender her seat on December 1, 1955, inspired generations of others to continue her legacy by standing up for the values that our democracy holds dear.

Because of her contributions, I am proud to join with Congressman JIM COOPER and CBC Chairwoman JOYCE BEATTY in introducing the Rosa Parks Day Act, which would designate today, December 1, as a new Federal holiday in her honor.

This bill will ensure that her brave sacrifice lives on in American history and serves as a reminder to continue to protect the gains that we have made over 60 years ago while tackling the challenges that plague this Nation today.

While we honor the guardian of the Montgomery bus boycott today, we must also acknowledge her sacrifices and do our own responsibility as a call to action. Though Jim Crow is no more, there are modern-day challenges that require the time and talents of each of us. We must remain vigilant in seeking justice for the countless Black Americans that fall victim to police brutality.

We must remain vigilant in our commitment to continuing the fight to protect the sacred right to vote. We owe Rosa Parks and so many others nothing less.

TOO MUCH SALT IN WASHINGTON'S DIET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, middle- and lower-income households across the country are getting the short end of the stick under the so-called Build Back Better Act.

For months, House Republicans have exposed radical provisions in this bill that do nothing to help the American people or the country. One such provision is the raising of State and local tax deductions, commonly referred to as SALT.

Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, a \$10,000 cap was placed on SALT deductions. This meant that taxpayers who

itemized their returns could deduct up to \$10,000 in certain taxes that are paid to State and local governments.

Under the so-called Build Back Better Act, the cap would be set at \$80,000. That is a \$70,000 increase in tax deductions for high-income households in America. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget estimates that raising the SALT cap to \$80,000 equates to a gift of \$625 billion in perpetuity to wealthy Americans.

Speaker PELOSI was quoted as saying that raising SALT deductions is "about which States get the revenue they need in order to meet the needs of the people."

Mr. Speaker, that claim may sound appealing to some, but not all Members of the Democrat Party are sold. Jason Furman, the former chair of former President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers and current Harvard economist, calls this giveaway obscene.

Representative JARED GOLDEN, a Democrat from Maine, who voted against the so-called Build Back Better Act, said he was concerned about tax giveaways to millionaires. Even Senator BERNIE SANDERS came out in staunch opposition to these proposed changes for the SALT cap. Noticing a pattern here?

Consider who will be the people reaping these benefits. Here is a hint: it is not hardworking American families. With the tax deduction cap set at \$80,000, the households with the highest income would be saving \$25,900 more than they do under the current law.

The Tax Policy Center found that this \$80,000 cap would directly benefit the top 1 percent of households. Middle- and lower-income households will be left behind. With only 5.4 percent of the households earning more than \$200,000 per year in North Carolina, few people would receive this handout.

Higher-income States such as California, New York, and New Jersey have historically benefitted from SALT cap deductions—with North Carolina being far removed from the conversation.

Mr. Speaker, economic experts, Republicans, and even Democrat Members of Congress agree that Washington has too much SALT in its diet. If the majority believes upping SALT deductions and leaving both middle- and lower-income Americans behind is a viable route to take, the consequences would be a lot more than they bargained for.

The Senate should kill the so-called Build Back Better Act immediately.

DETERIORATING INFRASTRUCTURE IN TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a mounting problem which is affecting every Texan: our deteriorating infrastructure.

Now, I know a thing about infrastructure. When I was a county commissioner, I saw firsthand how a lack of investment directly impacted people in my area. As a State, we regularly have received scores of C and D on our infrastructure. In my own area, it was even worse because of the damage that hurricanes and flooding did on a regular basis.

These deteriorating roads and bridges cost Texans over \$700 a year in damages and extra vehicle maintenance. That is an entire paycheck for many of the people in my district. On top of that, Houstonians have had to deal with the twin trouble of decaying roads and rapid growth.

Harris County is now home to over 700,000 more people than it had in 2010. Without significant investment, we are trying to fit more and more people onto the same deteriorating roads.

Mr. Speaker, the traffic is so bad in parts of my city that I and many other Houstonians simply avoid entire neighborhoods altogether. This directly hurts small business owners who depend on infrastructure for people to reach their stores.

Mr. Speaker, poor infrastructure does more than hurt families' pocketbooks, it has already cost us lives. Everyone in Texas remembers the winter storm this past February that left millions freezing in their homes without power.

The extreme cold weather brought State power systems to the brink of collapse. Over 200 Texans died in this storm, many of them seniors, from cold weather exposure. It didn't have to be this way. The State government had the choice the last time this kind of storm happened in 2011 to take the advice of Federal regulators and prepare our power grid for winter emergencies. Instead, the State has done nothing and will have to bear the cost.

Many Houstonians will also remember Hurricane Ike, Hurricane Rita, and Hurricane Harvey, it comes one after another. Every year, another "storm of the century."

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These storms have caused hundreds of deaths, billions in damages, and displaced thousands from their homes in Houston. Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on, but the point is clear: my district is facing a clear and present danger from the failure to invest in reliable infrastructure.

During the previous administration, we heard promise after promise from Republicans. They were going to address this with the so-called infrastructure weeks. I can't even remember how many of those we had, but it certainly stretched for 4 years. Promises made, promises broken.

But I am proud that today I can go back to my district and say that these critical investments are finally—finally—on their way. Thanks to President Biden's commitment to working with Congress to get this done, Texas will receive \$35 billion to rebuild our infrastructure.

For all the problems I have spoken about, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act has a solution. This law will invest over \$26 billion in funding for better roads and bridges built to last and to handle future growth. It will also invest \$3.3 billion to improve public transit options that reduce congestion and improve transportation for everyone. Texans will also benefit from a \$3.5 billion program in this law that will protect power systems from weather emergencies like the winter storm.

But this law doesn't just solve today's problems. It is also about preparing us for tomorrow's opportunities.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will deliver reliable internet access to rural Texas communities by investing over \$100 million in expanding coverage. This will allow rural Texans to finally access jobs and commerce that were previously locked away.

This bill will also prepare Texas for electric vehicles of the future by investing nearly half a billion dollars to build our charging station network.

Mr. Speaker, Texas is facing serious infrastructure problems. But this law is the solution. I am proud that this money will soon flow directly to communities in my State and improve lives.

Thanks to the leadership of President Biden, Speaker PELOSI, Leader SCHUMER, and some of our friends across the aisle, this bipartisan infrastructure bill will send help, and it is on the way.

MARC MOEN IS KEEPING IOWA BEAUTIFUL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a man from my district for his commitment to keeping Iowa beautiful and preserving some of our most treasured historical sites.

Marc Moen, a developer in Iowa City, was recently presented with the Iowa Architectural Foundation's 2021 Community Enhancement Through Architecture and Design Award. The awards program recognizes individuals, organizations, agencies, or communities outside the architectural profession who have demonstrated consistent and effective leadership, vision, and support for architecture, or have continually championed the cause of architecture in ways that contribute to the betterment of Iowa communities.

Marc began his architectural work in 1985 when he advocated to save the first brick house in Iowa City from being razed and began restoring the building instead. Since then, Marc has worked to make Iowa City the beautiful community it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Marc for his dedication to our community and to our State.

LEWIS PAYNE IS CARRYING ON IOWA'S FAMILY FARM HERITAGE

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a man from my district for continuing his family legacy of leadership in Iowa agriculture.

This year, Lewis Payne of Kalona was awarded the Heritage Award by the Iowa Farm Bureau. The Heritage Award recognizes agriculture industry leaders who have carried on the tradition of farming family-owned land.

Known as the Pickard Farm, Lewis' 261.4-acre plot of land was originally purchased by his great-great-grand uncle over 172 years ago and was passed from Lewis' great-grandfather down to his grandfather, then eventually to his mother, who then passed the land down to Lewis, who had been raised on that farm helping his parents.

When asked about the future of his family farm, Lewis said that his goal is to be a steward of the land and eventually pass it down to the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Lewis for continuing a fantastic Iowa family tradition and for making Iowa a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

4 PAWS FOR ABILITY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a heartwarming story about total strangers coming together to make a positive impact in a child's life in my district.

Six-year-old Keagan Berding of Bettendorf, Iowa, loves to run. Diagnosed with autism at the age of 2, Keagan is nonverbal, but he is very social and has several passions, including playing outside with other children, showing affection through hugs, and watching videos on his tablet.

Because of Keagan's love of running, extra measures are needed to ensure his safety, and this is where a fantastic organization has come in to assist Keagan and his parents. 4 Paws for Ability is a group that provides and trains service animals to assist people like the Berding family across the globe. Currently the organization has raised over \$43,000 toward providing Keagan with a fully trained service dog, with the largest single donation being \$10,000 from a complete stranger whose own child has benefited from a service animal.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for 4 Paws for Ability and everyone who has contributed for striving to make positive impacts in the lives of children like Keagan all over the world.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say enough is enough. Enough is enough.

Enough gun violence in our schools, enough children hiding in fear, and enough parents trembling in terror as they search for any news of their own kids.

There were 100 calls made to 9-1-1 in Oxford yesterday. Hundreds of children were stuck in their classrooms crying out for help. Hundreds of kids were scared to death that this would be their last day of school.

We have our young people learning how best to survive a shooter in between math and science class. Six year olds were asked to figure out for themselves whether they have a better chance to survive if they hide in a closet or if they should rush the gunman.

And then, on days like yesterday, days that repeat with the same frequency as this body's failure to respond, we hear the stories of teenagers texting their parents from behind a desk saying things like: Mom, if I don't make it, I love you, and I appreciate everything that you have done for me. Parents were begging their children to "barricade yourselves behind doors, hide in classrooms, and, please, hold your tears, you cannot make a sound."

This Chamber has heard much about God since men first stood within these hallowed Halls. This Chamber has heard much about the God-given rights our Creator inalienably endowed.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask you then: What rights has God given our children?

Do they enjoy the God-given right to exist in their schools without fear of death or gun violence?

Do American parents have the God-given right to drop their children off at school and expect to see them come home at night?

Parents from Columbine to Sandy Hook to Parkland have had to bury their babies. And the children who survived have had to live with the trauma that only stepping over a friend painted in blood could ever bring.

Do we, as a nation, have the God-given right to live free from this epidemic of gun violence, of senseless loss, and of unimaginable pain?

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of you here today to put yourselves in the shoes of those parents. Put yourselves in the shoes of the mothers and the fathers who have gasped for air when desperation would not let them breathe. Put yourself in the shoes of all those who have sunk to their knees when the agony would not let them stand.

Mr. Speaker, do you have the courage to do that, to feel what it might be like to bury your own child, to suffer with your God day after day to make sense of the senseless, unnecessary gun violence?

Mr. Speaker, do you have the courage?

Does this body have the courage to do what is right and to save our children and to protect our families?

And if not, Mr. Speaker, do you really, truly, have the courage to look away?

AMERICA'S PETROLEUM RESERVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.